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MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER
BASOM, BLAINE T

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
		09/607,374	CHAVEZ ET AL.
Office Action Summary		Examiner	Art Unit	
		Blaine Basom	2173 .	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _11 April 2007_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _40-59_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _40-59_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

The Examiner acknowledges the Applicants' amendments to independent claims

40 and 50. Regarding each of these claims, the Applicants argue that Hickman (U.S.

Patent No. 5,361,361), Irwin ("Managing On-Line Help in a Networked Multi-Platform

Environment"), and the PDF Reference Manual ("Portable Document Format Reference

Manual, Version 1.2"), presented in the previous Office Action, fail to teach a computer

"having installed on the computer a plurality of different software components and a

plurality of different hardware components wherein a first vendor corresponds to a first

component selected from the plurality of different software components and the plurality

of different hardware components and a second vendor corresponds to a second

component selected from the plurality of different software components and the plurality

of different hardware components, the first vendor and the second vendor being included

in the different vendors," as is now claimed. The Applicants' arguments with respect to

this added limitation have been considered, but are moot in view of the following new

grounds of rejection, which are required in response to Applicants' amendments.

Further regarding the claimed invention, the Applicants argue that Hickman,

Irwin, and the PDF Reference Manual fail to teach a first level of categories and a second

level of categories in a unified taxonomy structure being predefined and static, as is

claimed. The Examiner, however, respectfully disagrees with this argument; Irwin

demonstrates such a unified taxonomy structure. For example, Irwin describes a

taxonomy structure (referred to as a "help tree"), which categorizes the help content for

software existing on one or more UNIX-based computer systems (see e.g. "THE NEW

HELP TREE" on page 158, and Figure 1 on pages 159-160). As demonstrated by Irwin,

a first level of categories – communication, tutorials, docs, and unix – in this structure are

predefined and static (see e.g. "THE NEW HELP TREE" on page 158, and Figure 1 on

pages 159-160). Similarly, a second level of categories in this structure (e.g. "software"

and "compilers" in the "/help/unix" directory) are predefined and static (see e.g. "THE

NEW HELP TREE" on page 158, and Figure 1 on pages 159-160). Accordingly, the

Examiner maintains that Hickman and Irwin, in combination, teach a first level of

categories and a second level of categories in a unified taxonomy structure being

predefined and static, as is required. The Applicants arguments with regard to the

claimed first and second level of categories being predefined and static have thus been

fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 40 and 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over U.S. Patent No. 5,361,361 to Hickman et al. (hereafter referred to as "Hickman"),

over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and also over the article entitled "Managing On-

Line Help in a Networked Multi-Platform Environment," which is authored by Irwin et

al. (and hereafter referred to as "Irwin"). In general, Hickman discloses a method for

providing concurrent access to hierarchical help provided by multiple independent

applications (see column 1, lines 24-53). Such hierarchical help is specifically organized

into categories, topics, and sub-topics (see column 2, lines 11-14). Moreover, Hickman

discloses that such hierarchical help is implemented on a computer, via a computer-

readable medium (see column 2, line 60 – column 3, line 40; and column 7, lines 14-19).

Hickman thus presents a computer-readable medium having computer-executable

components for execution on a computer for presenting a plurality of help topics for

software and hardware components installed on the computer.

Specifically regarding claim 40, Hickman discloses that the computer system

implementing the above-described help system comprises:

1) A help content store for storing help contents for help topics, the help content

store having a plurality of separate vendor folders corresponding to different vendors of

software components installed on the computer, each vendor folder containing help

contents of respective help topics provided by a corresponding vendor, the computer

having installed thereon a plurality of different software components wherein a first

vendor corresponds to a first component selected from the plurality of different software

components and a second vendor corresponds to a second component selected from the

plurality of different software components, the first vendor and the second vendor being

included in the different vendors: Hickman discloses that the computer comprises

multiple independent applications (i.e. "software components"), provided by different

vendors, with each application having a set of help files (see column 1, lines 24-44; and

column 4, lines 20-29). The help files comprise help content for a plurality of help topics

(see e.g. column 5, lines 12-16). The computer memory storing the applications, and thus

the help files of the applications, is considered a help content store for storing help

contents for a plurality of help topics, the help content store having a plurality of separate

vendor folders (i.e. help files), which correspond to different vendors of software

components installed on the computer, each vendor folder containing help contents of

respective help topics provided by a corresponding vendor.

2) A help database containing mapping data for mapping the help topics from the

different vendors into a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics, the

unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by

the different vendors and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the

unified taxonomy structure being predefined and used by all the different vendors of

software components installed on the computer, the mapping data including data for each

help topic for identifying a node position of the help topic in the unified taxonomy

structure and a location of a corresponding help content of the help topic in the help

content store: Hickman discloses that each application comprises a help file directory,

which is used to map the help topics associated with the help files into a "hierarchical and

integrated listing of help file topics from multiple applications" (see column 4, lines 30-

51). This hierarchical and integrated listing is considered a "unified taxonomy structure,"

like that of the present invention, as it is common to and inclusive of the help topics

provided by the different vendors and used by the different vendors (for example, see

figure 5, and its associated description in column 5, line 49 – column 6, line 66). As the

levels of topics within the hierarchical and integrated listing are defined by the help file

directories of the various applications (see column 4, lines 30-51), each of the levels of

categories within the hierarchical and integrated listing – including the first level – is

predefined. The help file directories particularly include data for identifying the position

of each topic or sub-topic within the hierarchical and integrated listing, and also, data for

identifying the location of the help content associated with each help topic, the help

content being stored in the help files described above (see column 4, line 52 – column 5,

line 27). This set of help file directories associated with the applications stored on the

computer system thus provides a help database, like that of the claimed invention,

comprising mapping data for mapping help topics into a unified taxonomy structure being

common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the different vendors, whereby a

first and second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure is predefined and

used by all the different vendors of software installed on the computer (each application

has help topics presented on the first level), and whereby the mapping data includes data

for each help topic for identifying a node position of each help topic in the taxonomy

structure and a location of corresponding help content in a help content store.

3) A help content update module for updating help contents in the content store

and the mapping data in the help database based on update packets received from the

vendors: Hickman discloses that a help utility automatically recognizes the installation of

new applications and include help information topics from the newly installed

applications into the above-described hierarchical outline structure (see column 2, lines

19-25). Such a help utility thus comprises a help content update module for updating

help contents received in the content store and the mapping data in the help database

based on update packets, i.e. applications or new versions of applications, which are

received from vendors.

4) A help application for providing a user interface for presenting the help topics

to a user, the help application being programmed to interactively display the unified

taxonomy structure using mapping data in the help database and help contents in the

content store, including displaying help categories and help topics in the unified

taxonomy structure in response to user selections, retrieving help contents of a user-

selected help topic, and displaying the help content of the user-selected help topic:

Hickman discloses that the above-described help utility is also used to display the

hierarchical outline structure of help topics to a user (see column 6, lines 4-36), and also,

is used to retrieve and display help content associated with each help topic in response to

user-selection of the help topic displayed in the outline structure (see column 6, lines 37-

66). This help utility is consequently considered a help application like that of the

claimed invention, which is for providing a user interface for presenting help topics to a

user, and which is programmed to interactively display a unified taxonomy structure

using mapping data in a help database and help contents stored in a content store,

including displaying help categories and help topics in the unified taxonomy structure in

response to user selections, retrieving help contents of a user-selected help topic, and

displaying the help content of the user-selected help topic.

Accordingly, Hickman presents a computer-readable medium similar to that of

claim 40, which is for presenting a unified taxonomy structure having a predefined first

and second level of categories of help topic for software components installed on a

computer. However, Hickman does not explicitly disclose that the plurality of vendor

folders (i.e. help files) within the help content store include vendor folders corresponding

to vendors of hardware components installed on the computer. Hickman, that is, fails to

explicitly teach that the plurality of separate vendor folders (i.e. help files) also include

folders corresponding to vendors of hardware components installed on the computer, the

computer having installed thereon a plurality of different hardware components, as is

required by claim 40. Nevertheless, computers having stored thereon help files provided

by different vendors of hardware components installed on the computer are well known

in the art.

For example, the "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" section of the

Specification of the instant application discloses that both software and hardware vendors

provide help information, stored on computer, for easy access by a user:

> *In the early days of the personal computer era, each piece of computer*
>
> *software and hardware by reputable vendors typically came with one or more*
>
> *user's manuals, most of them tended to be either too voluminous and difficult for*
>
> *average users to use, or not comprehensive enough to provide answers to many*
>
> *questions a user might have...*
>
> *As more computer processing power and system memory became*
>
> *available, there was a significant improvement in the way computer help*

information was provided to the users. Specifically, help information regarding a

software program of a hardware device may be organized by the vendor of that

product into different help topics that a user can access and view on the

computer...As the Internet has become popular and widely accessible, many

software and hardware vendors have also set up online support centers on the

World Wide Web, where a user can search for technical information and obtain

online technical support for diagnosis and troubleshooting. These new

approaches of providing help information have become so popular that many

software and hardware products nowadays do not even come with old-fashioned

paper manuals. (See page 1, line 24 – page 2, line 25 of the Specification,

received 6/30/2000).

The Applicants' Admitted Prior Art provided in the Specification thus discloses that, at

the time of the invention, it was well known to provide help information for hardware

components of a computer, the hardware components and associated help information

provided by specific vendors.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having

the teachings of Hickman and the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art before him at the time

the invention was made, to modify the help content store of Hickman such that it also

includes help files provided by vendors of hardware components installed on the

computer, like suggested by the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, i.e. such that help

information regarding hardware components is also accessible in the unified taxonomy

structure. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to include help

information for hardware components because computer users – even experienced users –

at times require help with hardware components, as is taught by the Applicants' Admitted

Prior Art (See page 1, lines 15-26 of the Specification, received 6/30/2000).

Accordingly, Hickman and the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art teach a computer-readable

medium similar to that of claim 40, which is for presenting a unified taxonomy structure

having a predefined first and second level of categories of help topic for software

components installed on a computer. However, as demonstrated by figures 4A, 4B, and 5

of Hickman, the help topics presented within the unified taxonomy structure are

organized according to the application to which they are associated. That is, the help

topics for each application are presented together, with the first level of help topics within

the unified taxonomy structure comprising the major help topics of each application.

Consequently, the first and second levels of categories within the unified taxonomy

structure of Hickman are not static, as required by claim 40, since adding or removing an

application (and its help files) would result in the addition or removal of help topics from

the first level and second levels.

Nevertheless, organizing application help files in a taxonomy structure, with a

predefined and static first and second levels of categories, is well-known in the art. For

example, Irwin presents such a taxonomy structure (referred to as a "help tree"), which

categorizes the help content for software existing on one or more UNIX-based computer

systems (see e.g. "THE NEW HELP TREE" on page 158, and Figure 1 on pages 159-

160). As demonstrated by Irwin, the first and second level of categories in this structure

are predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software and hardware

components installed on each computer (see e.g. "THE NEW HELP TREE" on page 158,

and Figure 1 on pages 159-160).

As described above, the help topics presented within the unified taxonomy

structure of Hickman are organized according to the application to which they are

associated. Having a large amount of applications would result in a large first level of

help topics. It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art,

having the teachings of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin before

him at the time the invention was made, to modify the unified taxonomy structure taught

by Hickman and the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art to include additional levels,

including a static first and second levels, to organize the plurality of help topics, as done

by Irwin and described above. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill

to utilize such a combination because the help files, being organized hierarchically,

would be easier to find, as is demonstrated by Irwin. Accordingly, Hickman, the

Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin teach a computer-readable medium like that of

claim 40.

Concerning claim 45, Hickman discloses that that a help utility may automatically

recognize the installation of new applications, and as described above, include help

information topics from the newly installed applications into the above-described

hierarchical and integrated listing by updating the help directories. As described above,

such a help utility is considered a help content update module, like that of the claimed

invention. It is understood that a user may similarly remove applications, as is known in

the art. Since the help directories specify the help topics for applications *installed* on the

computer system, it is interpreted that removing an application would remove a directory

for that application. Consequently, the help database, which as described above is the

conglomeration of such directories, would be updated. Thus it is understood that the help

content update module of Hickman is programmed to add, move, and remove help topics

from the hierarchical and integrated listing by updating the mapping data in the help

database.

With respect to claim 46, Hickman discloses that a user may perform a search for

a particular help topic or set of help topics (see column 6, line 67 – column 7, line 13). In

particular, the above-described help directories are searched to find topics that match

user-specified search criteria (see column 8, lines 26-43). The help directories, which as

described above are considered a help database, thus comprise data specifying a search

keyword associated with each help topic, the search keyword being the name of the help

topic.

As per claims 47-48, Hickman discloses that the above-described help file

directories, which are considered a help database, comprise a topic descriptor field (see

column 4, lines 61-65). This descriptor field contains an alphanumeric string that

specifies the help file content for a particular topic or sub-topic within help files, and

which is capable of being displayed to the user (see column 4, line 65 – column 5, line 2).

In other words, it is interpreted that this descriptor field comprises the name of each topic

or sub-topic. Consequently, this descriptor field is used to specify an index string, i.e.

name, associated with each help topic. Hickman further discloses that a menu selection

button may be selected in order to display the hierarchical and integrated listing of topic

and sub-topic names (see column 5, line 49 – column 6, line 36). Thus the user interface

provided by the help application of Hickman includes an interface element presenting an

option to view index strings of help topics.

Claims 44 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

the combination of Hickman, Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin, as applied

above in the rejection for claim 40, and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,236,989, which is

attributed to Mandyam et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Mandyam"). As described

above, Hickman, Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin present a computer-readable

medium like that of claim 40. In particular, Hickman discloses a help file directory,

which as described above, contains mapping data for mapping help topics into a unified

taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics. It is interpreted that the structure

of the directory implicitly denotes the parent node of each help topic in the taxonomy

structure. For example, referring to the directories of figures 4A and 4B and the

associated hierarchical structure of figure 5, the topics and sub-topics in the hierarchical

structure are displayed in the same order as listed in the directories. Consequently in the

directories of Hickman, the parent of a sub-topic is specified by the first topic preceding

the sub-topic. In other words, the mapping data for each topic implicitly includes a

parent ID identifying a parent node of the topic in the unified taxonomy structure.

Continuing on, Hickman further discloses that the help file directory includes a file

identifier field, which defines the location of the help file corresponding to each help

topic (see column 5, lines 2-6). Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin,

however, do not explicitly specify that this file identifier field comprises a URL, as expressed in claim 44, or that the help contents in the help files are written in a mark-up language, as is specified in each of claim 49.

Like Hickman, Mandyam discloses a method for providing help information for a software application residing on a computer. More specifically, and regarding the claimed invention, Mandyam discloses that the help information may be migrated to HTML and stored on a web server, from which it may be accessed by specifying a URL associated with the content (see column 6, lines 24-34, and column 2, lines 44-50).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hickman, Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin such that the help files are accessed from a web server, as is done by Mandyam. In other words, it would have been obvious to modify Hickman such that the file identifier field comprises a URL which specifies the location of the help contents associated with each help topic, the help contents being written in HTML, as is taught by Mandyam. One would have been motivated to create such a combination because storing help files on a web server consumes less space on the user's computer, as is taught by Mandyam (see column 6, lines 24-29).

Claims 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin, as applied above in the rejection for claim 40, and also over U.S. Patent No. 5,825,356, which is attributed to Habib et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Habib"). As shown above,

Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin teach a computer-readable medium, like that recited in claim 40, which is for providing help information. Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin, however, do no explicitly teach that such help information includes a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by the help contents stored in the help content store, as is expressed in claim 41.

Like Hickman, Habib presents a method for providing help information to a user, wherein this help information is organized into various topics and is presented on the user's computer (see column 3, lines 44-51). Habib additionally discloses that the presentation of help information includes displaying a "do-it-all" button, which when selected, causes the computer to execute a script in order to complete a task regarding a selected help topic (see column 1, lines 57-60, and column 4, line 57 – column 6, line 3). Such scripts are particularly maintained in a script library referred to as a "catalog file" (see column 13, lines 41-67). Consequently, like recited in claim 41, Habib presents a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by the help contents.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and Habib before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the help system taught by Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin such it includes buttons with similar functionality to the "do-it-all" buttons described above and by Habib. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because "do-it-all" buttons provide a faster means of fixing a problem than that of manually fixing the problem, as is expressed by Habib (see column 4, lines 15-19).

Regarding claims 42 and 43, since particular sets of scripts are associated with specific help contents, as is expressed above, it is apparent that with the above-described combination of Hickman, Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and Habib, there exists some sort of store which is checked to identify which scripts to execute for particular help content. Habib particularly discloses that, for the help content to access a script, the help content must know the name of the script (see column 13, lines 41-65, particularly lines 49-52). Consequently, each help topic is considered to necessarily comprise storage for storing information, specifically the names of required scripts, which identifies that the help content associated with the topic is authorized to access such scripts. The help application checks these script names to determine what scripts the help content is allowed to access. Such storage storing these script names is therefore considered an "authorization store," like that described in claims 42 and 43.

Claims 50 and 55-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin, which is described above, and also over the Portable Document Format (PDF), as described by the "Portable Document Format Reference Manual, Version 1.2". As described above in the rejection for claim 40, Hickman discloses a computer comprising: a plurality of software and hardware components installed on the computer; a help content store for storing help contents for help topics for software components installed on the computer, the help content store having a plurality of separate vendor folders corresponding to different vendors of the software components installed on the computer, each vendor

folder containing help contents of respective help topics provided by a corresponding

vendor, the computer having installed thereon a plurality of different software

components wherein a first vendor corresponds to a first component selected from the

plurality of different software components and a second vendor corresponds to a second

component selected from the plurality of different software components, the first vendor

and the second vendor being included in the different vendors; a help database containing

mapping data for mapping the help topics from the different vendors into a unified

taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics, the unified taxonomy structure

being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the different vendors, and

used by all the different vendors of software and hardware components installed on the

computer, the mapping data including data for each help topic for identifying a node

position of the help topic in the unified taxonomy structure and a location of

corresponding help content of the help topic in the help content store; a help content

update module for updating help contents in the content store and the mapping data in the

help database based on update packets received from the vendors; and a help application

for providing a user interface for presenting the help topics to a user, the help application

being programmed to interactively display the unified taxonomy structure using mapping

data in the help database and help contents in the content store, including displaying help

categories and help topics in the unified taxonomy structure in response to user

selections, retrieving help contents of a user selected help topic and displaying the help

content of the user-selected help topic, as is required by claim 50. The Applicants

Admitted Prior Art further teaches storing help files (i.e. "vendor folders") corresponding

to vendors of hardware components installed on the computer, as is described above in

the Rejection for claim 40. In addition, Irwin teaches using a unified taxonomy structure

comprising a first level of categories that are predefined and static, as is described above.

Accordingly, Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin teach a computer

similar to the computer of claim 50. Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and

Irwin, however, do not explicitly teach implementing a mapping data file including an

action field configurable to include data to indicate whether the contents or mapping of

the topics are to be added, removed, or updated, as is required by claim 50. Nevertheless,

adding such an action field to a file to indicate that portions of the file are updated is

well-known in the art.

For example, the Portable Document Format generally describes an "incremental

update," in which a file is updated without rewriting the entire file (see e.g. section 5.6 on

pages 70-72). Such an incremental update entail appending a cross-reference section to

the end of the file to indicate contents of the file that are to be added, removed, or

updated (see e.g. section 5.6 on pages 70-72).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having

the teachings of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and the PDF

Reference Manual before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the help

application taught by Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin such that it

is updated via incremental update, like described in the PDF Reference Manual. That is,

it would have been obvious to modify the mapping data of Hickman, the Applicants'

Admitted Prior Art, and Irwin to include an action field (i.e. a cross-reference section)

that indicates contents or topics that are added, removed, or updated, when updating the

help contents or taxonomy structure. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary

skill to utilize this combination because such an incremental update allows the files to be

updated, but without rewriting the entire files, as is taught by the PDF Reference Manual.

Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and the PDF Reference Manual thus

teach a computer like that of claim 50.

Concerning claim 55, Hickman discloses that that a help utility may automatically

recognize the installation of new applications, and as described in the previous

paragraphs, include help information topics from the newly installed applications into the

above-described hierarchical and integrated listing by updating the help directories. As

described above, such a help utility is considered a help content update module, like that

of the claimed invention. It is understood that a user may similarly remove applications,

as is known in the art. Since the help directories specify the help topics for applications

installed on the computer system, it is interpreted that removing an application would

remove a directory for that application. Consequently, the help database, which as

described above is the conglomeration of such directories, would be updated. Thus it is

understood that the help content update module of Hickman is programmed to add, move,

and remove help topics from the hierarchical and integrated listing by updating the

mapping data in the help database.

With respect to claim 56, Hickman discloses that a user may perform a search for

a particular help topic or set of help topics (see column 6, line 67 – column 7, line 13). In

particular, the above-described help directories are searched to find topics that match

user-specified search criteria (see column 8, lines 26-43). The help directories, which as described above are considered a help database, thus comprise data specifying a search keyword associated with each help topic, the search keyword being the name of the help topic.

As per claims 57-58, Hickman discloses that the above-described help file directories, which are considered a help database, comprise a topic descriptor field (see column 4, lines 61-65). This descriptor field contains an alphanumeric string that specifies the help file content for a particular topic or sub-topic within help files, and which is capable of being displayed to the user (see column 4, line 65 – column 5, line 2). In other words, it is interpreted that this descriptor field comprises the name of each topic or sub-topic. Consequently, this descriptor field is used to specify an index string, i.e. name, associated with each help topic. Hickman further discloses that a menu selection button may be selected in order to display the hierarchical and integrated listing of topic and sub-topic names (see column 5, line 49 – column 6, line 36). Thus the user interface provided by the help application of Hickman includes an interface element presenting an option to view index strings of help topics.

Claims 54 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and the Portable Document Format (PDF), which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,236,989, which is attributed to Mandyam et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Mandyam"). As described above, Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin,

and PDF teach a computer like that of claim 50. In particular, Hickman describes a help

file directory, which as described above, contains mapping data for mapping help topics

into a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics. It is interpreted that

the structure of the directory implicitly denotes the parent node of each help topic in the

taxonomy structure. For example, referring to the directories of figures 4A and 4B and

the associated hierarchical structure of figure 5, the topics and sub-topics in the

hierarchical structure are displayed in the same order as listed in the directories.

Consequently in the directories of Hickman, the parent of a sub-topic is specified by the

first topic preceding the sub-topic. In other words, the mapping data for each topic

implicitly includes a parent ID identifying a parent node of the topic in the unified

taxonomy structure. Continuing on, Hickman further discloses that the help file directory

includes a file identifier field, which defines the location of the help file corresponding to

each help topic (see column 5, lines 2-6). Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art,

Irwin, and PDF, however, do not explicitly specify that this file identifier field comprises

a URL, as expressed in claim 54, or that the help contents in the help files are written in a

mark-up language, as is specified in claim 59.

Like Hickman, Mandyam discloses a method for providing help information for a

software application residing on a computer. More specifically, and regarding the

claimed invention, Mandyam discloses that the help information may be migrated to

HTML and stored on a web server, from which it may be accessed by specifying a URL

associated with the content (see column 6, lines 24-34, and column 2, lines 44-50).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to modify the method of Hickman, the Applicants'

Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and PDF such that the help files are accessed from a web

server, as is done by Mandyam. In other words, it would have been obvious to modify

Hickman such that the file identifier field comprises a URL which specifies the location

of the help contents associated with each help topic, the help contents being written in

HTML, as is taught by Mandyam. One would have been motivated to create such a

combination because storing help files on a web server consumes less space on the user's

computer, as is taught by Mandyam (see column 6, lines 24-29).

Claims 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

combination of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and PDF, which is

described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 5,825,356, which is attributed to Habib et

al. (and hereafter referred to as "Habib"). As shown above, Hickman, the Applicants'

Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and PDF teach a computer like that recited in claim 50, which

is for providing help information. Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin,

and PDF, however, do not teach that such help information includes a script library for

storing a plurality of script library objects used by the help contents stored in the help

content store, as is expressed in claim 51.

Like Hickman, Habib presents a method for providing help information to a user,

wherein this help information is organized into various topics and is presented on the

user's computer (see column 3, lines 44-51). Habib additionally discloses that the

presentation of help information includes displaying a "do-it-all" button, which when

selected, causes the computer to execute a script in order to complete a task regarding a

selected help topic (see column 1, lines 57-60, and column 4, line 57 – column 6, line 3).

Such scripts are particularly maintained in a script library referred to as a "catalog file"

(see column 13, lines 41-67). Consequently, like recited in claim 51, Habib presents a

script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by the help contents.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having

the teachings of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, PDF, and Habib

before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the help system taught by

Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, and PDF such it includes buttons

with similar functionality to the "do-it-all" buttons described by Habib. It would have

been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because "do-it-

all" buttons provide a faster means of fixing a problem than that of manually fixing the

problem, as is expressed by Habib (see column 4, lines 15-19).

Regarding claims 52 and 53, since particular sets of scripts are associated with

specific help contents, as is expressed above, it is apparent that with the above-described

combination of Hickman, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, Irwin, PDF, and Habib,

there exists some sort of store which is checked to identify which scripts to execute for

particular help content. Habib particularly discloses that, for the help content to access a

script, the help content must know the name of the script (see column 13, lines 41-65,

particularly lines 49-52). Consequently, each help topic necessarily comprises storage

for storing information, specifically the names of required scripts, which identifies that

the help content associated with the topic is authorized to access such scripts. The help

application checks these script names to determine what scripts the help content is

allowed to access. Such storage storing these script names is therefore considered an

"authorization store," like that described in claims 52 and 53.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than

SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

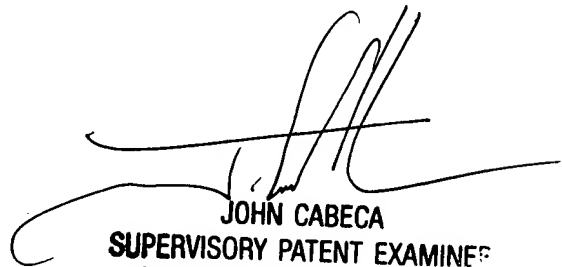examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-

4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am

to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call

800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

btb
7/14/2007

JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100